United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: October 31, 2005

Mr. Kevin Thorpe
USDA Agricultural Research Service
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-East
B-402, BARC-East
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Kevin:

On October 24, 2005, USDA Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The purposes of these surveys were to determine gypsy moth population densities and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2006.

Gypsy moth survey plots were randomly selected based upon available host trees (oak species), size of sample area and uniformity between egg mass counts. At each sample point, a 1/40th acre fixed radius plot was established. The plots consisted of a tally of all the new (2005) egg masses observed on the overstory trees, understory vegetation, ground litter and duff. The total number of egg masses observed for each plot was multiplied by 40 to determine the number of egg masses per acre.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, egg mass densities ranged from 0-120 and averaged 12 egg masses per acre (Table 1). Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended at BARC in 2006.

Please contact me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding this egg mass survey.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Whiteman

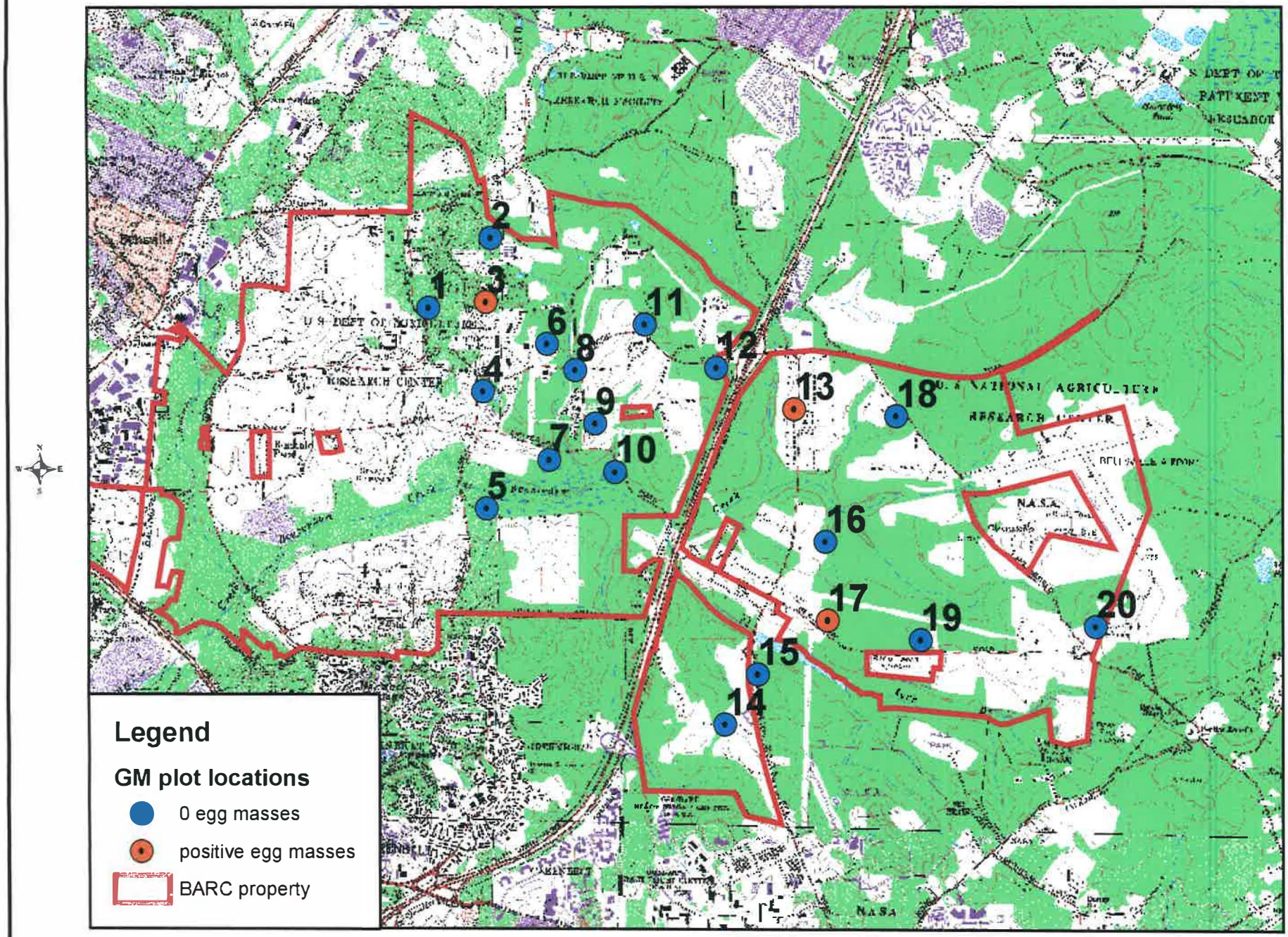
RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Robert Tichenor, MDA
Sally Hughes, MDA
Noel Schneeberger, AO

Table 1—Results of the gypsy moth egg mass survey conducted at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, October 24, 2005.

Plot #	# em/acre
1	0
2	0
3	120
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	0
13	40
14	0
15	0
16	0
17	0
18	80
19	0
20	0
em/acre average = 12 em/acre range = 0-120	

Figure 1.--Gypsy moth survey plot locations at BARC, October 24, 2005.



USDA Forest Service, S&PF, FHP, Morgantown, WV

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